

REMARKS

This preliminary amendment is being submitted to insert a claim of priority and to remove multiple dependencies from claim 4 and 9.

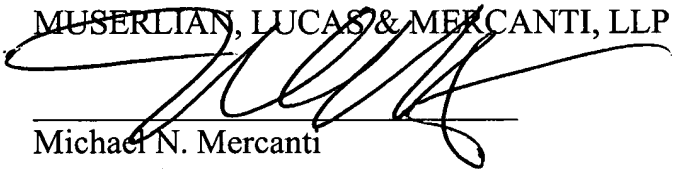
It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been entered and that the present application is in all respects complete and in condition for favorable consideration. An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding the amendment presented herein, it is requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned at the telephone number shown below.

An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

MUSERLIAN, LUCAS & MERCANTI, LLP


Michael N. Mercanti
Registration No. 33,966

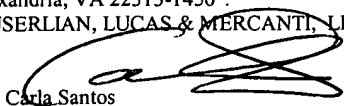
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"Express Mail" mailing label no. EV 403 033 105 US Date of Deposit <u>July 2, 2004</u> I hereby certify that this correspondence and/or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above, in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450". MUSERLIAN, LUCAS & MERCANTI, LLP By:  Carla Santos
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